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To our Readers:
Due to labor problems we are only able to print 8 pages this week.

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Israel Rejects Arafat Negotiations Offer

Israeli officials rejected PLO Chairperson Yasir Arafat's call for peaceful negotiations with Israel under UN auspices. Arafat's proposals were published in the French Weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* May 4.

The Jerusalem Post, in a report May 6, quoted unnamed government officials saying that their stand is that they do not talk to the PLO. Another Israeli official who also was quoted by *The Jerusalem Post* described Arafat's statements as a "propaganda exercise."

Israeli officials also rejected Arafat's statements opposing military attacks against civilian targets inside Israel.

Israeli statements came after the interview with the French *La Nouvel Observateur*, in which he spoke of peace which would be negotiated through the UN. In the interview, which was given at the PLO chairperson's headquarters in Tunisia, Arafat said that he favours mutual recognition between two states, after a Palestinian state is established. Arafat also said that he does not support military attacks against civilian targets, adding that the latest attacks were in response to "terrorist attacks practiced against us by Israel."

He described the Jerusalem operation, which took place last April 2, as a reply to the Sabra and Shatila massacres. "Extremist violence causes counter-extremist violence," he said.

Palestinians Sentenced to Life

Two Palestinians from Abu Dis, Mohammed Shehadeh Muhsen (left) and Bakr Mohammed Muhsen (right), were sentenced to life by a military court in Lydda May 8 on charges of membership in a Palestinian organisation, planting bombs in Israeli-owned buses and planning military operations between the years 1976-79.

NE'EMAN BACKS TERRORISTS:

Senior Officers Held in Underground Round-Up

Israeli minister for science and technology and leader of the right-wing *Tehiya* Party Yuval Ne'eman called the attempt to assassinate three West Bank mayors in 1980 "positive" in an Israel Radio broadcast May 9.

Ne'eman said the attempt to murder Bassam Shaka'a, Karim Khalaf and Ibrahim Tawil, mayors of Nablus, Ramallah and al-Bireh, "paralysed the main instigators in [the West Bank] without killing anyone."

Shaka'a lost both legs and Khalaf part of his foot when bombs placed in their cars exploded in June 1980. Tawil escaped injury but a Druze sapper was blinded when a bomb in the mayor's car went off.

A total of 25 Israelis have now been arrested in the roundup of the fourth 'Terror Against Terror' cell. Those detained, according to leaks from investigators, include a retired high-ranking police officer, a major in the 'civil administration' branch of the military government, a former deputy governor of a West Bank area and a senior airforce officer. Police are reportedly seeking a 26th member of the group.

Various members of the group are expected to be charged with: the attempted assassination of the mayors; the murder of three students and the wounding of dozens of others in the attack on Hebron University July 1983; the attempted mass murder of Palestinians and tourists by planting bombs in six buses last month and an unsuccessful attempt to bomb two Hebron mosques.

Suspects were taken by police to re-enact the Hebron attacks and the attack on Bassam Shaka'a, according to police leaks. Shaka'a says he didn't see anyone at his house.

The suspects are reported to have been organised in self-contained cells. Leaks say one cell's motive was an attempt to "frighten the Palestinians into a mass exodus." Another is said to have been planning an assault on one of the papers operating in Jerusalem "to stop the peace process" in 1982.

There were also reportedly plans to blow up Bir Zeit University.

Arms for 'Terror Against Terror' are reported to have come from the Israeli army. Raids on Kiryat Arba May 3 uncovered caches of Israeli army weapons given to settlers as part of a 'regional defence programme' and subsequently reported missing.

Reports published this week contradict earlier reports that a spy was infiltrated into 'Terror Against Terror.' Police are now said to have 'turned' one member of the group to act as informer.

The arrests are said to have split the Gush Emunim settlement movement, many of whose members were involved in the organisation. A closed-door meeting of the movement's leaders this week heard acrimonious exchanges between pro-terror Rabbi Moshe Levinger, of Kiryat Arba, and other leaders of the movement. The Gush Emunim announced it would not give legal aid to the arrested men.

Ne'eman's pro-terror stand may split his party. MK Geula Cohen reportedly called the radio station to disassociate herself from her leader's remarks. Ne'eman was also condemned by cabinet colleagues and opposition spokespeople called for his ouster.

West Bank observers note that a senior police officer is being disciplined for revealing that he passed on information about Israeli terror cells to investigators several months ago.

With Israelis claiming anti-Arab terror networks have now been broken, a bomb was discovered May 8 at Rachel's Tomb, Bethlehem. Sappers safely defused it but the main Jerusalem-Hebron road was closed for several hours.

The next day two explosive devices were discovered at the *Manarah*, Ramallah. They too were immobilised. An anonymous telephone caller also told police a bomb had been placed in a local bus. A fourth bomb was discovered in al-Bireh May 9. It too was defused safely.

One detainee was allowed out with guards to attend an Israeli ceremony at the Ibrahimi Mosque, Hebron. Another who was released complained to the Hebrew press about his treatment.

"They evacuated (Palestinian) saboteurs from their cells in order to put us there. This is simply humiliating. On the walls of our cells things like 'PLO'," were written, said Yair Ben Horin, a 24-year-old resident of Nov settlement in the Golan who was detained in the first wave of arrests and released after four days.

Another detainee wrote in a letter to his wife: "It is regrettable that the *Shin Bet* (Secret Services) is busy with me and doesn't have time for important tasks.

"By the help of God, my situation and my mood are well. Among other things, it is thanks to the hearty warmth I encounter from people who stand in this situation in front of me, as if against me. How regrettable it is that those men, my admiration towards whom you remember from my stories from my recent reserve service, are now busy with this affair."

The *Shin Bet* claims that it didn't infiltrate an informer into the ranks of the underground but that its agents photographed and recorded meetings and conversations of its members for the past three years.

All suspects are residents of occupied territories settlements, including the Golan Heights, West Bank and Gaza Strip. Some, however, are still officially registered as residents inside the 'green line.'

A *Shin Bet* spokesperson and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir complained publicity relating to the discovery of the underground is exaggerated. Settlers' organisations in the occupied territories announced, "An incitement compaign is taking place against us."

Gush Emunim and National Religious Party leaders refused to condemn the underground's activity. Chief of staff Moshe Levi expressed his concern about the use of Israeli army arms "for purposes that they are not intended for." In the meantime, rumours say another attempted mass murder was foiled. The general claim of the official statements is that if the planned and attempted acts had been successful, it would be harmful for the international image of Israel and could "awaken Arab resistance to Israeli domination."

Israeli President Chaim Herzog said in an interview broadcast last weekend that the detainees should be seen as individuals and there should be no accusations against specific bodies or elements.

Nevertheless, the Israeli president indicated that this phenomenon is harmful because it is a rebellion against the state of Israel and the authority of the government of Israel. (Translation: Hadashot, Ma'ariv, Yediot Aharanot, HaAretz, May 4-9, 1984.)

Jordan Releases Palestinian Political Prisoners

The Jordanian authorities released 46 Palestinian political prisoners after mediation efforts by PLO Chairperson Yasir Arafat during his visit to Jordan May 3. Several other prisoners remain in custody.

According to news reports published in the local dailies May 4, Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat informed Arafat of the decision during their meeting in Amman the previous day. The papers also quoted Palestinian sources as saying that the released prisoners are members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Reports from people coming here from Jordan note that among those who remain in detention are Samir Salameh Khalil, 35, son of Samiha Khalil, the head of the Family Rehabilitation Society in al-Bireh.

Samir Khalil, a pediatrician, was arrested 16 months ago shortly after his return from a period of study in the Soviet Union. The physician, who is the father of one son, has not been brought to trial.

Last month, several dozen political prisoners in al-Mahattah prison went on hunger strike to protest the 'inhuman conditions' in which they were being held.

Prisoners protested that they were being held without trial. Ten prisoners were hospitalised after they collapsed as a result of the strike.

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Militias, Israel Attack Ain al-Hilweh

The Israeli-backed 'South Lebanon Army,' led by Antoine Lahad, forced their way into Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp May 8 in order to search for commandos. The attack came after unidentified commandos shot and killed a local militia leader.

Reports from southern Lebanon said camp residents resisted the attackers, engaging them for over 30 minutes. One militiaman was wounded.

Israeli troops surounding the camp fired flares to light the way for the attackers. There were no further details in local papers but they expressed concern at the possibility of a repeat of the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The raid came after three days of siege at the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp, which holds over 30,000 residents.

The siege came after gunmen shot a local militia leader, known as Abu Sultan, May 5. An *Associated Press* report May 6 said two gunmen on a motorcycle fired at the militia leader with a silenced pistol. He died instantly.

Israeli soldiers and south Lebanese army (militiamen) besieged the camp and prevented people from getting in or out. Eyewitnesses also said that the besiegers closed the entrances with piles of dirt and cut off water and electricity.

In a related case, the Israeli army continued its siege of the village of Karoun, in eastern Lebanon. The siege followed a military attack against Israeli troops earlier this week. There was no casualty report issued.

Advocate Denied Access to Prisoner

Advocate Lea Tsemel filed a complaint with the Israeli High Court May 8 against a ban on her seeing her client, Zuhra Ja'afari, from Nabatiyeh, Lebanon. Ja'afari is currently held in Neve Tertza prison.

Ja'afari was arrested in Lebanon December 12, 1983 and transferred to Neve Tertza January 24, 1984.

On February 24 Tsemel received a letter from Ja'afari asking her to come to the prison. Since that date Tsemel has been prevented from seeing her client.

Tsemel told *Al Fajr*, "The authorities issued a military order under which Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners are brought to Israel and tried before Israeli courts."

Lawyers in the occupied territories believe that in accordance with a 1946 *addendum* to the Geneva Convention the authorities are in violation of international law. A member of an armed organisation operating in occupied territory is considered a combatant under the Convention.

Tsemel has not yet been notified of charges against Ja'afari but the authorities admit she is in Neve Tertza.

Flag Battle Marks State Birthday

The 36th anniversary (by the Jewish calendar) of the creation of the state of Israel May 7 was marked by the raising of Palestinian and black flags and the defaming of Israeli flags.

The Israeli daily *Davar* said that in at least two West Bank villages Palestinian flags were raised and Israeli flags 'defamed.' Police are also investigating a report that a Palestinian flag was raised in Arrabeh, the Galilee.

In Mea Sharim, the bastion of Jewish Orthodox anti-Zionism, black flags were raised from rooftops and balconies as a sign of mourning. Mea Sharim stores and establishments were open as usual in a show of defiance.

An announcement reading "36 years of raising the flag of rebellion towards God and the Torah" was posted on the doors of the few closed establishments. The announcement was signed "those in Zionist captivity."

According to *Davar* daily, the Neturei Karta movement which called 'Independence Day' 'Holocust Day,' issued "an unprecedented hate sheet, blaming those who established the state [of Israel] for closing their ears to the cries of their fellow Jews who they could have rescued at the time of the holocaust."

Rabbi Moshe Hirsch, spokesperson of Neturei Karta movement, said that Zionist independence day "literally means their independence from God, society, family and civilisation."

Druze Demand Prisoner Exchange Talks

The Druze Initiative Committee (DIC) sent two telegrammes May 2 and 3 to Israeli Prime Minister Yizhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens demanding a start to negotiations for the release of Asaad Hamoud, who was taken prisoner by a Palestinian organisation over a year ago.

The telegramme to Shamir said the DIC demands the implementation of a prisoner of war treaty to secure the release of both sides' prisoners to relatives.

The telegramme stated that the DIC is ready to exert efforts to mediate between the two parties. It said there is also no reason not to meet the Palestinians' demands. The DIC noted that in November 1983, thousands of Palestinian POWs were exchanged for six Israeli soldiers.

The Palestinian organisation announced April 6 that they mandate the DIC as the go-between for them and the Israelis.

In their telegramme to Arens the DIC noted that Asaad Hamoud is a Druze and that his family wants him back.

Jamal Mu'adi of the DIC told *Al Fajr*, "We welcomed the [Palestinian organisation's] statement and we are ready to exert any possible effort get the prisoners released."

The telegramme to Moshe Arens said: "We are sure our efforts will continue since our mission is humanitarian.

"The situation is in the hands of the Israeli government which must announce its readiness to work for the liberation of the prisoners."

Jamal Mu'adi demanded an interview with Arens to hear the demands of the Israeli government.

One of Hamoud's relatives told *Al Fajr* that Asaad has been missing since April 1983. The man, who refused to reveal his name, said that he is certain Asaad Hamoud is in the hands of the Palestinians.

Leb. Cabinet Still Has Teething Trouble

The Lebanese cabinet session scheduled for May 9 was postponed for one day to settle problems regarding the safety of two ministers, Walid Jumblatt and Nabih Berri.

A Lebanese source said the government will hold its session at cabinet headquarters. He did not mention whether that was in Ba'abda or the summer's palace in Bekifia village, the birthplace of the Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel.

Observers said that the village is the safest place for the meeting as it is protected by Syrian troops and the Progressive Socialist Party fighters in Matan Ala.

Walid Jumblatt, the minister of tourism, transport and labour, told Prime Minister Rashid Karameh that Ba'abda is not safe enough for Lebanese ministers.

Nabih Berri, the minister of south Lebanese affairs and reconstruction, and two other ministers backed Jumblatt.

Camille Chamoun, head of the Lebanese *Kfour* front, 'allied conservative parties' and the minister of finance, cooperatives and housing, said the cabinet session must be convened in Ba'abda. Pierre Gemayel, the minister of posts and communications, backed Chamoun.

Lebanese sources said the Lebanese national coalition government has solved its crisis of last week after Berri and Jumblatt agreed to participate.

At a press conference last week, Berri said that "Lebanon, from now on, is going into another stage of greater struggle for liberating the south from the Israeli occupation, for the maintenance of construction and the implementation of justice."

The Amal movement leader said "all means will be used" to liberate south Lebanon and the western Beqa'a.

Walid Jumblatt stressed the pressing necessity for a long truce in order to carry out necessary reforms.

Rashid Karameh said he is optimistic that Suleiman Franjieh, a prominent figure in the Lebanese National Salvation Front, will soon join the government. Abdullah Rasi, a Greek Orthodox relative of Franjieh, was given the interior ministry but has not taken up his post.

Franjieh has said he wants a Maronite to represent him and that he rejects the offer of the interior ministry.

Karameh commented, "We will coordinate with Franjieh in light of his national beliefs."

The Israeli government is now anxious about the issue of liberating south Lebanon. Moshe Levi, Israeli chief of staff, spoke about new assessments of the military situation in Lebanon.

Norwegians in Solidarity with BZU Town-Arrestee

Student groups in Norway sent protests to the military authorities here and to the Israeli High Court against the imposition of a town arrest order on BZU Student Council President Samir Sbeihat, according to a May 3 BZU press release.

Six student groups, including the Norwegian Student Union, the Student Teachers' Union and the Tromso University Students' Union, have given their support to a letter condemning the town arrest of Sbeihat as a violation of his human rights. The letter calls for an annulment of Sbeihat's order.

A six-month town arrest order on new Student Council President Samir Sbeihat was imposed on December 23, 1983, just two days after the student council elections. Under the terms of this order, Samir is restricted to his village, Rummaneh, and must sign in at Jenin police station once a day. Samir suffered a previous town arrest order from July 8, 1983 until December 1, 1983.

The military authorities have not proffered any specific reason for this town arrest order. Samir has not been charged with any offence and his case has not come before a court of law. Samir's 'right of appeal' is denied, for in 'security cases' the Israeli High Court invariably defers to the wishes of the competent military authority. His attorney, Felicia Langer, has filed a request to have his town arrest order transferred to Bir Zeit to enable Samir to pursue his academic studies, BZU said.

Waqf Protests Israeli Presence at al-Aqsa

Members of the Islamic *Waqf* Committee and the heads of *waqf* departments in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are trying to get Israeli guards thrown out of al-Aqsa Mosque. Prominent *waqf* figures at the office of Sa'ad al-Din al-Alami, head of the Islamic *Waqf* Supreme Council, called upon Muslims to hold a protest march to the mosque.

Al-Alami told reporters after the meeting that the *waqf* would be contacting international news agencies, journalists, Israeli officials and international organisations to mobilise mass support against the presence of the Israeli guards inside Islam's third holiest shrine.

The *waqf* telegrammed UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar asking for his intervention.

The *waqf* also sent another telegramme to the Israeli minister of defence on the same matter.

Heads of *waqf* departments have been instructed to publicise Israeli practises in al-Aqsa at Friday prayers.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 210, May 11, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censors 11
Number of articles totally censored out 2
Number of articles passed 9

Sakhnin Men Tortured Following Charges of Flag-Raising

Israeli police headquarters in Jerusalem notified the lawyer of Saleh Zbeidat, a Sakhnin chemical engineer, May 8 that they are investigating charges that he was tortured last month.

Zbeidat filed an official complaint with the Galilee police April 25 charging that he was tortured during his detention at Acre and Jalameh prisons.

Zbeidat, 23, was arrested on April 13 on charges of raising a Palestinian flag during Land Day demonstrations March 30. The lawyer supplied the police with names of interrogation officers who participated in beating his client.

In his complaint, lawyer Wakim Wakim said that Zbeidat was kept for a week at Jalameh prison yard with a cloth bag over his head. The interrogators frequently interrogated him, beat him with truncheons and kicked him in the face and head.

According to a press statement issued by the Haifa-based Committee in Defence of Democratic Rights, May 4 a policeman extinguished two cigarettes on Zbeidat's tongue. They also threatened to bring his sister and force him to rape her and threatened to demolish his family house and to expel them from the country, the statement said.

During his detention, Zbeidat was barred from receiving any medical treatment for the injuries he received during torture.

The Sakhnin man was released on April 29 after his lawyer petitioned the Haifa district court on the grounds that he required extensive medical attention and rest. The court, however, put Zbeidat under house arrest until he is brought to trial.

In another related story, another Sakhnin man, Ibrahim Khalayleh, 22, who has been in detention since April 27, also on charges of raising a Palestinian flag, complained that he was tortured at Acre lockup.

Lawyer Wakim Wakim learned about the torture after he was allowed to see Khalayleh a week after his arrest.

Wakim expressed concern at the increase in torture. He charged that "most Arabs who are arrested on political charges are tortured."

Kabul Man Tortured by Israeli Police

Israeli police began investigation into a complaint from Nasir Ibrahim, from Kabul, the Galilee, May 9 that he was tortured by the Shafa 'Amr police.

Ibrahim, a member of the *Abna' al-Balad* movement, was held at the Shafa 'Amr police station for 10 days on charges of illegally demonstrating and causing damage to Israel Television cameras.

The charge sheet stated that Ibrahim and three other men from the village who were also arrested held a demonstration without a permit during the visit by Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres to the village last April 8.

Lawyer Wakim Wakim, who visited Ibrahim at the Shafa 'Amr police station shortly before his release, said he noticed that his face was covered with blood. Ibrahim explained that policemen had beaten him up with truncheons on all parts of his body.

Following his release, the Kabul man was ordered to remain confined to his home during nighttime until he is brought to trial. No date has been set for the trial.

High Court Postpones Jabalya Grab

The Israeli High Court postponed May 8 a ruling on disputed land in Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza Strip until a delegation representing the defence and the prosecution visit the area. The court will then decide whether 'Block S' in Jabalya falls within an area grabbed for refugee resettlement.

Forty families in Jabalya were given orders March 30 from 'civil administration' officials to vacate their houses within two days. The High Court issued an order *nisi* April 1 against the demolition of their houses until a court hears the case.

On May 4 the government prosecutor notified lawyer Felicia Langer that the Israeli authorities have no intention of demolishing the houses but confiscate gardens and empty plots of land to build new housing for refugees.

Israeli authorities started implementing resettlement plans in 1975.

Thousands Attend First Theatre Opening

With music, theatre, dancing, folklore and plenty of food, the first Palestinian theatre and arts centre in the occupied territories opened May 9. Nearly a thousand spectators attended a free outdoor festival hosted by the *Nuzha al-Hakawati* Theatre. The festival included the *Farafir* and *al-Hakawati* theatre troupes, *Nadi al-Hilal* scout troupes, the Silver Stones music group and actresses from the Friends Girls School.

Palestinian artist Suleiman Mansour supervised a group painting in which interested individuals participated.

The outdoor gala event focussed on the theme of a wedding and *al-Hakawati's* plight in trying to obtain the building which now houses the centre. Actors, dancers and scouts posing as a groom marched to a stand where another actor was posing as the bride's father (the theatre owner) and asked for the hand of his daughter, Nuzha.

The request was granted, only to be interrupted by a rich American who tried to bribe the father.

In the end, a battle ensued between the Palestinian artist and the wealthy American, in which the American was defeated and a big traditional wedding dance was held. Spectators joined in a huge *debkah* dance celebrating the wedding.

In the evening a packed auditorium enjoyed the singing of returning Palestinian *'ud* player Mustafa Kurd singing songs lauding Palestine, Jerusalem and the poor.

Kurd, who was born and raised in Jerusalem, sang for the first time in the city after an eight-year absence.

He gave special thanks to lawyer Lea Tsemel, who was in the audience, for her efforts in obtaining permission for him to return.

The first half of Mustafa's solo concert consisted of songs by Palestinian poets Mahmoud Darwish, Samih al-Qassem and Rashid Hussein.

After an intermission he continued with a medley of his own songs. The audience warmly received songs about Beirut and Ramallah worker Adel Tartir.

After the performance members of *al-Hakawati* and friends opened champagne to celebrate the opening.

Members of *al-Hakawati*, many of whom had spent the last few nights before the opening without sleep, were clearly pleased the theatre opened on time.

Pointing to the crowded hall, actor Radi Shehadeh said: "It is like a dream come true. I just cannot believe all this is happening."

Torturer Blinds Victim in Gaza

A Palestinian resident of the Gaza Strip, Mohammed Hassan Abu Amra, was blinded in one eye after being tortured by an Israeli officer May 1. Abu Amra, who is still under treatment at Nasser Hospital in Gaza, was beaten as he argued with a Druze officer in the military governorate.

Hadashot newspaper, which published a detailed report on the case May 9, said that Israeli authorities have not yet begun an investigation of the case. A file on the case has been transferred from Gaza police to the military police.

Abu Amra told reporters: "On May 1, around 2:00 pm, while I was whitewashing part of my newly-built house, two armed soldiers driving a military jeep parked near it and one of them said rudely, 'Who permitted you to build a house without a licence? You must demolish it.'

"I said: 'Well.' The soldier then ordered me to give him my ID card and said, 'Follow me to the military headquarters.' I gave it to him.

"The other soldier said, 'Put on clean clothes and come to the military governorate.' I went with them. One of them took me to a side room in the military headquarters where he slapped me and shouted, 'Do you want to demolish the house or not?'

"In anger, I responded, 'I do not want to demolish anything because you are attacking me.' The soldier left the room and came back with a tall, fat policeman. The officer put his arm around my waist and led me to another room.

"There he punched me hard in the face and then left. My left eye started bleeding. I collapsed.

"The officer returned and said: 'What happened? You were in a normal condition. Did you cut your eye with a knife?' I remained lying on the ground for a long time. After an hour they took me to a hospital where I discovered I couldn't see anything."

Abu Amra said he built his unlicenced house in the Remal quarter, like many of his neighbours.

Nuri al-Uqbi, head of the Committee for the Defence of the Beduin, appointed a lawyer after hearing about the incident.

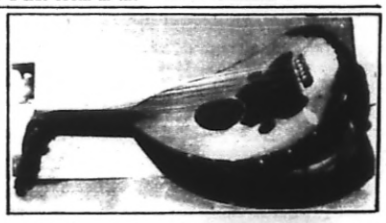
Laywer Freih Abu Madin said: "The officer is a Druze man from the north. He is known for his bad temperedness. Many residents in Gaza have complained about him. In the past this officer was interrogated about a sexual attack he committed on a Palestinian woman."

Abu Amra believes the officer is a major.

Abu Amra's young son told reporters that his mother and grandmother have gone every day to the military headquarters to get his father's ID card but the authorities refuse to give it up.

Advocate Abu Madin explained: "All buildings in this quarter are unlicenced. Electricity has been provided to them. The refugees are given 100 square metre plots but Beduin are not."

The Israeli military refuse to comment on the matter, claiming they have been forbidden to talk to *Hadashot*.



'Security' Officials Destroy 'Ud

Israeli security personnel destroyed a valuable musical instrument belonging to Palestinian musician Mustafa Kurd.

Kurd's *'ud* did not show up with his other baggage when the artist arrived from West Germany May 3.

Two days later when the *'ud* showed up at the airport's lost and found department, it was destroyed. Airport officials said the damage was the work of 'security' officials. On an insurance document the airport officials wrote, "The instrument was opened as if someone wanted to find out what was in it."

Kurd, who is in Jerusalem to sing in the opening of the *Nuzha al-Hakawati* Theatre, said, "They destroyed the *'ud* after they realised it was an oriental musical instrument." He questioned it would have been destroyed if it had been a guitar or a Western musical instrument. Kurd said that he plans to exhibit the destroyed *'ud* in a Palestinian museum.

Mustafa Kurd, 39, was born in Jerusalem and has lived in self-imposed exile in Germany since 1976. He gave his first concert in Jerusalem since leaving on May 9.

The Dawn

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Unalleviated Fear

Israel's unprecedented and unusual success in capturing suspected Jewish terrorists that have carried out a large number of terror attacks against Palestinian civilian targets in the occupied territories has not dispelled the feeling of extreme insecurity and anxiety among the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Parents are becoming afraid to have their children ride in buses. They are constantly worried when they send them to schools and, ironically, even places of worship have become unsafe, given the numerous attacks on religious sites.

These successful arrests, and particularly given their magnitude, give the impression that Jewish terrorism is on the decline. However, only days afterwards, two bombs were discovered in the Ramallah area on May 8 and a day later another bomb was discovered in al-Bireh. In both cases, the bombs were safely detonated.

Nevertheless, had these bombs exploded, the losses in human lives would have been enormous since the bombs were placed in the most crowded areas of the two cities, *al-Manarah* Square in Ramallah and the *Hisbeh* shopping centre in al-Bireh.

Under international law, the inhabitants of an occupied territory are entitled to adequate protection and if the Israelis cannot provide us with that protection, as is obviously the case, then we call on the international community to interfere in our case.

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American Politics and the Embassy Juggling Act

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington, DC Correspondent

Although the Reagan administration has openly opposed the bill now in Congress to transfer the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, reports persist of a compromise under consideration that will reward Israel regardless of the bill's outcome.

The Washington Post (April 30, 1984) reveals that a debate is on-going in the administration about the issue, especially since this is an election year. The two major Democratic Party candidates for the presidency have fully supported the bill to transfer the embassy to Jerusalem. Reagan, who is on record against the change, is thus looking for a compromise in order not to leave the impression with Israel's American friends that the Republicans are less pro-Israeli than the Democrats.

Making an issue out of the embassy, it is believed here, the state of Israel will no doubt receive something in return, though maybe not the transfer. This is precisely the strategy Israel's friends follow: to raise an issue dear to Israel and its allies in the US and then to show willingness to compromise for some other gain. The compromises, according to administration officials, *The Washington Post* argues, include "moving the embassy to West Jerusalem" and keeping embassy business out of East Jerusalem, "making the US Consulate General in East Jerusalem an extension of the embassy in Tel Aviv." The consul general in East Jerusalem currently reports directly to the state department in Washington. A last condition: "calling upon Jordan... to begin peace talks on the city's future status by a 'certain date' with the understanding that if Jordan fails to meet the deadline" the embassy would be moved to Jerusalem. This is the view of some officials, others, according to *The Washington Post*, are opposed to the transfer of the embassy under any circumstances.

Eagleberger Comments

Larry Eagleberger, the third-ranking official at the State Department who is due to leave the administration on May 7, said that his information is that a decision has been made against the transfer of the embassy.

Talking to foreign correspondents at the Washington Foreign Press Centre for the last time before re-entering private life, Eagleberger said, "We are opposed to the proposals for removing the embassy to Jerusalem." Asked by *Al Fajr* about the article in *The Washington Post*, Eagleberger said, "There is no intention of any compromise." The administration position regarding the embassy is clear: "In the last analysis," he said, "Congress will have to decide what its position is." The administration's position still stands and has not changed. He then concluded by saying, "We are opposed at this moment to anything having to do with the change of the location of our embassy."

To All the Alexes in Israel

by Attallah Najjar

Unbelievable, impossible, you are lying, you are pro-PLO, you exaggerate, our soldiers don't do such things, these are your characteristics, not ours.

The overwhelming majority of Israelis use such terms in response to any Palestinian who tells the story of our people under Israeli occupation. The Israelis do not believe that Israeli soldiers commit illegal acts. Torture, arbitrary detention, beatings, insults that are heaped upon Palestinians by the Israeli soldiers and police are terms which do not exist in the Israeli vocabulary. To them, the stories are mere fabrications.

You are a leftist... pro-PLO... a hater of Israel... suffering from an inferiority complex, an anti-Israeli agent. You do not understand... you do not know the Arab mentality... the Arabs understand only the language of force... you are, knowingly or unknowingly, serving the enemies of Israel. We have to treat you as if you were a Palestinian. You have to live in the Arab states to understand reality... you are a defeatist, a capitulator. So the 'overwhelming majority' of Israelis describe any Israeli who admits to the fact that Palestinians are suffering at the hands of the Israelis in the occupied territories, in Lebanon and elsewhere. The Israelis simply do not want to know the truth.

I am writing this after reading a brief interview with an Israeli photographer, Alex Livak, from *Hadashot*. He took a photo of one of the armed men who hijacked the bus. The man was still alive and was accompanied by two Israeli security men after the storming of the bus by the Israeli forces Friday morning. When asked whether the person appearing in the photo was one of the armed men or one of the passengers, as stated by the army spokesperson, Livak replies: "I don't know. Indeed, I don't want to know." After enlarging the picture, Livak says: "I saw the man escorted by the security people, handcuffed. Since then I have had an internal conflict." Why should you feel any conflict, Livak? It is very straightforward. Had the person been one of the passengers, he wouldn't have been handcuffed. And had he been injured, 'whether he be one of the armed men or a passenger,' they wouldn't have handcuffed him. An injured man cannot escape. The handcuffs prove that he was not wounded when he was arrested.

Livak describes the conflict he feels by saying: "I love Israel. They have taught us that we are men of principle, ethics and values. They taught us to believe we are upstanding. Humanitarians. Israel is a state of justice and law!" Alex Livak speaks for the majority of the Israelis. He doesn't want to know the truth. Perhaps because it is bitter and contradicts his image of Israel. What Livak is lacking here is daring. And this what most of the Israelis lack. It is not the boldness to go into battle and to operate tanks and planes... it is the boldness to tell the truth. (Translation: Al Fajr, April 22, 1984.)

OPINION

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

Drumbeat Justice

by Marcel Roubicek

To the Editor:

While reading the last two issues of the *Al Fajr* English-language weekly (those of April 13 and 20 respectively) two news items published on their pages reminded me of those long-gone post-World War II days when the imprisoned Nazi Minister of Foreign Affairs Joachim Ribbentrop, while interrogated on some issue connected with his forthcoming trial at Nuremberg, constantly pointed out the difference between 'civilised law' and 'Nazi law' as a matter of course.

Almost 40 years have passed since but, it seems, there still exist, apart from the usual so-called civilised laws, a number of other ones which do not quite fit into the same category. Thus an interested reader is informed that a certain Adnan Rushdi Nakhleh was sentenced in Gaza by an Israeli military court to a three-year prison term, with another two years suspended, for having belonged to a Lebanon-based Palestinian organisation in the ranks of which he received military training and subsequently fought Israeli troops during the 1982 Lebanon war.

It escapes my knowledge as to whether the court which condemned Nakhleh realised that, according to a 1946 *addendum* to the Geneva Convention, a member of an armed organisation which controls a given territory is to be considered as a combatant while engaged in open fight against enemy troops, regular or irregular, and in case of capture has the same status as a prisoner of war who is a member of the armed forces of a sovereign state.

No lesser people than a series of Israeli cabinet ministers have confirmed this ruling by referring to the 'PLO state-within-a-state' in Lebanon and by (under Sharon's war office tenure, to boot!) handling the more or less 500 real and the remaining imaginary captured combatants at the Ansar Camp there more or less according to those Geneva Convention articles that refer to POW treatment.

According to that very same convention, too, most of those men and women, so far as they remained alive, were eventually exchanged for Israeli POWs in PLO hands. With this point cleared, let us look at Nakhleh's personal status in order to ascertain whether he might have been condemned because of what is usually termed 'high treason.' No luck here, too. Nakhleh, a Gaza Strip resident, happens to be perfectly stateless and hence owes allegiance to nobody. Thus he can serve one day any PLO faction, the next the Phalange, then the south Lebanese Army and eventually even the so-called Labour Service the US Army maintains in West Germany. To claim that prior to his having enlisted in Lebanon he lived in Israeli-occupied territory is akin to stating that since a kitten was born in an oven it automatically becames a cake!

Not to be outdone by the army, the so-called security services had to make their own caper, too. One US citizen, Mike Mansour, was quite badly manhandled while kept under arrest for having donated some money to an obscure charity and having himself photographed with unspecified PLO leaders. Now the present Pope happens not just to contribute to Palestine-affiliated charities but actually to maintain some in this country. Moreover, he had himself photographed with no less than Yasir Arafat himself and the resulting picture, in colour, can be seen displayed in many an East Jerusalem shopwindow. It might be of interest to know if, should the said Pope happen to visit this country, he would be subjected to the same treatment as Mike Mansour.

Marcel Roubicek
Jerusalem

A Government That Welcomes Terror

by Isaac Hasson

To the Editor:

If anyone was looking for proof that terror is used as an excuse by the government of Israel in order not to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem, the statements of General Ivri on Israel Television April 18 supply it fully.

David Ivri said that Palestinians were compelled to return to the way of terror because they have lost the political ability they had in Lebanon. [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhak Shamir claimed on television a few months ago that there was a political danger (to Israel) from the PLO which forced Israel to go to war. It is clear, therefore, that Israel doesn't want to enter political negotiations on the Palestinian question and doesn't seek a political solution. Terror is the lesser evil, from its point of view.

It is also clear that the terror from which Israeli citizens suffer is very good for Israeli policies because Israel — or rather the government of Israel — can continue to claim that negotiations should not be held with 'terrorists' and can even ask for aid against 'international terror.'

Logically, those who are looking for moderates among the Palestinians who are prepared to act against terror in order to follow the political road are misleading the Israeli and Palestinian publics, and maybe themselves too, because Israel doesn't leave political options for the Palestinians. Because any negotiations mean conceding territories and Israel is not prepared to do this, even if the Palestinian Charter is amended.

Also, 'autonomy' doesn't secure for the Palestinians any possibility to exist, certainly it has no security against a policy which aims at gnawing away at them, eliminating the possibility of economic development, thinning their population and bringing them to despair of the possibility of existence in their country.

Since Israel, according to the testimonies of Ivri and Shamir, fears the political route, [there can be] no doubt that Israel has choosen the option most advantageous for it: Palestinian terror.

Terror against innocent civilians raises disgust; but a government that welcomes terror raises more disgust. (Translation: HaAretz, April 25, 1984.)

Issac Hasson
Tel Aviv

King Hussein's Statements

by Abed al-Sattar Qassem

We read in the press of interviews with King Hussein about the ability of the US to play the role of a mediator in this region. We scrutinised these statements and listened carefully to the way in which they were said and the vocabulary used. We followed the different reactions of several countries to these statements and tried to find some light shed by them to help us reach an opinion on the content of the statements. There is no doubt that there was some worthwhile analysis presented.

From my own analysis of King Hussein's words, I reached the conclusion that there are two axes for his argument over the role of the US. The first has to do with the credibility of the US and the second with its strategy in this region. The king believes the US lost a great part of its credibility, which will influence its chances to play a peace and security-loving mediator role. He also believes the US does not clearly define its strategy in this region.

Taking the first instance, the Arab in general and the Palestinians in particular openly confirm that to distinguish between the mentality of the ruler and the ruled is not an imaginary exercise. In what concerns the Palestinian cause, the US has never been credible. So how is it going to lose a part of something which it does not possess? This is possible by considering the difference in understanding of what things should be, or in the difference in accomplishing what is wanted.

As Palestinians, we do not believe the attitude of the US has ever coincided with the convictions of the majority of our people or with our present expectations dictated to us by conditions we were not able to change so far. If it ever had any credibility, then this, undoubtedly, was outside our boundaries of understanding and grasping the reality of things.

Those who believed in that credibility were thinking in a way different from ours. As a result, this way of thinking disagrees with the plans that will guarantee our people its aspirations and hopes and opposes what the Palestinian people has already sacrificed thousands of martyrs in order to win.

It may be right that the US does not plan its foreign policy clearly in a defined strategy. There are changes that sometimes seem moody or linked to the political situation, or actually the internal administrative situation in the US. However, the politics of ups and downs, hardline and softline and high tide and low tide do not apply in the Middle East. The US adopted a policy in this region that leaves no question as to its principles and goals.

From our experience with the US, we found out that its policies are based on preserving the state of Israel, supporting its expansion, guaranteeing its military superiority and putting an end to the Palestinian identity by cooperating with all the Arab regimes backed by US aid and Israel. This was the US policy. It is still the same and we doubt it will change in the future as long as the *status quo* does not change.

But to believe that the US has changed its policies or is confused because it was not able to protect the abrogated Lebanese-Israeli agreement, we, by accepting this, would have neglected an important development. What has happened is that the US policies are now confronted by Syria, backed by the Soviet Union. The US did not change and will not change its understanding of how the Middle East should be.

This development put the US in a confrontation with its people. The position of the American people towards the death of its soldiers is as firm as the American policies in this region. However, the people have the upper hand. The US did not abandon its policies but only found a hole through which Arab pressure was exerted that left an impact internally. This led the administration to comply.

Certain Arab parties, including possibly Jordan, felt that the PLO and its influence in this region is vanishing and that Lebanon is totally under US-Israeli hegemony. They believed that their seemingly minor role in the past is coming to the surface again.

But this required the support of the US and that it maintain its role as a 'full partner in the negotiations.' All that was needed was to put the PLO out of work.

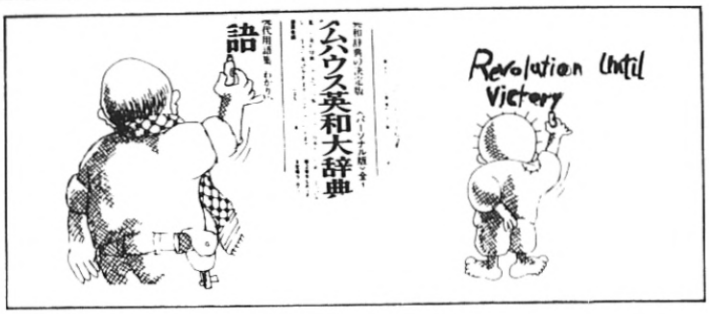
It seems the debacle of the US in Lebanon has disappointed Israel and other Arab leaders. The US, so far, cannot protect any decision reached between Israel and any Arab country, other than Lebanon. Israel, after what it faced in south Lebanon, does not seem ready, under present circumstances, to take it upon itself to play the role of the US.

Whoever is waiting for this agreement to be signed, has to wait until conditions change.

The shortest road to the truth is to name things according to their realities. In practice, the US never had a credibility and never changed its strategy in this region. The US was always hostile to the Arab people in general, and the Palestinians, in particular. To seek protection from it was never an act in accord with the aspirations of this people. Whoever wanted to become a national hero or symbol, then the air bubbles are not the right way because they do not express anything of value and are intended for distraction only.

What does it mean to speak on the US role in this region at a time weapons are being asked for to be used primarily against Arabs? What does it mean to invite the US to sponsor an acceptable solution when no evidence of self-help? On the contrary, calls for saving the people and land seem to coincide with harassment of nationalists and attacks against anyone who tries to play an active role.

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS



PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's recent visits to China and North Korea received top coverage in the local press this week.

Palestinian papers also focussed on the ongoing investigations into the Israeli terrorist groups. Local papers ran long translations from the Israeli press about the investigations.

All three local dailies gave coverage to the attacks on Libyan leader Colonel Qaddafi's headquarters in Tripoli.

Peres, Like Reagan, is a Disappointment

Those who were hoping for a peaceful settlement if the Labour Party was to win the elections were destroyed by Shimon Peres when he announced plans for annexation that were not proposed by the Likud.

He said in a recent visit to the settlements in the Jordan Valley that Israel should maintain sovereignty over the valley like other places in the West Bank.

With this, those who used to talk about 'saving what could be saved' or claiming that it is 'possible to save the land by giving up the PLO and giving power to Jordan' were not given a chance by the head of the Israeli Labour Party to enjoy their dreams and get over the disappointment they faced after they visited Reagan.

Maybe after this statement, which is not unique, these people will stop their campaign for this party which they started even before it published its platform and called for an independent Arab list to take votes away from the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

The statements by Peres indicate that there is nothing in common between those who are building hopes on the Labour Party and the leaders of that party. But when some insist that there is a common goal, then they are clearly saying that they are ready to give up the land after they give up the idea of an independent state.

It will be absolutely ludicrous to imagine that an independent Arab list will create an Arab lobby to pressure Labour to meet their dreams. These people have tried all methods but were not able to reach a solution. Maybe it is now time for them to announce their political bankruptcy.

AL TALIA
May 3

An Attempt to Assassinate the Word

The cowards who assassinated the Palestinian journalist Hanna Miqbil were aiming to kill the Palestinian word.

Those who fear Palestinian writings and intellect fear the growth of an independent identity for the Palestinian people and are trying to extinguish the Palestinian torch.

This is not the first time Palestinian writers and journalists have been targetted. The writers and journalists have always been in leading positions. Ghassan Kanafani, Kamal Nasser, Majid Abu Sharar, Iz al-Din Qalaq, Naim Khadr, Ali Foudeh, Said Hamami, Mahmoud Hamshari, and other Palestinian intellectuals who wrote about the sufferings of their people and their hopes and expectations were killed by cowardly murderers.

Miqbil was one of the best-known Palestinian journalists and intellectuals who took over an important position in the Arab Journalist Union and other international journalists organisations. He was a Palestinian who believed in his people's cause and fought for it until the last moment.

The criminals who assassinated him in Nicosia are mistaken if they believe that they will be able to silence the Palestinian voice or intimidate Palestinian writers.

AL SHA'AB
May 4

'White Democracy' in Israel

When the Nazareth police dare to take to court some of the city's fathers on charges of demonstrating illegally two years ago, they have done something that goes beyond limits of 'white democracy' in Israel, which keeps the Arabs out of its provisions in many things, particularly in their right to meet, demonstrate and strike.

This measure is one of the worst acts of supremism by those who believe thay can do to the Arabs in Nazareth what no law or norm would allow them to do in Tel Aviv towards its Jewish inhabitants.

The invented charge is like an attack on a family which was meeting at a funeral of one of its dearest sons.

That was on July 10, 1982 when Eitan's men reached the outskirts of Beirut after they destroyed everything in their way. Eitan was serious about his assumption that he would be able to annihilate the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon — our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. The whole world reacted angrily to these crimes committed in the last quarter of the 20th century. Israeli society was shocked by it. In Tel Aviv more than 20,000 Jews came out as our party called on them to stop Israeli military brutality.

During these moments, a number of [Democratic] Front [for Peace and Equality] members in Nazareth did the minimum in expressing the suffering of a whole people and in sharing the shock that hit the whole Israeli society and the world.

These people stood beside the road near Ain Square and carried signs denouncing the crimes and calling for an end to the Israeli aggression in Lebanon against the Palestinian refugee camps.

However, on that day the Nazareth police were not pleased with the protest and sent heavily armed border guards to physically attack those carrying signs. They beat them up, pulled them by the hair and then brutally took the signs from them. Then they put them in a police car and drove them away.

A similar thing was done during the protest against the massacres of Sabra and Shatila. We had demanded that those responsible for this brutality be prosecuted. But they decided instead to take the victims to court.

The Israeli public and the world know of the scandals in the Israeli police. These scandals show what the police do in the Jewish areas, so what would they do when it comes to dealing with the Arabs?

We wonder if the police think they can use the Arabs as guinea pigs to cover their scandals? We will not give up exposing Israeli police brutality to the rest of the world.

AL ITTIHAD
May 4

A Government of National Unity?

The Lebanese cabinet held its first meeting without Walid Jumblatt and Nabih Berri who were given junior posts while they were holding talks in Damascus which did produce results.

The question that now comes to the fore is whether or not the Lebanese government is a real 'national unity government' that can rid Lebanon of its troubles.

The Lausanne conference pointed to the depth of the crisis between the Lebanese separatist forces, which offered a solution of a sectarian state, and the nationalists, who are calling for radical changes. The conference failed because the separatists were obstinate and its sessions were moved to Damascus and Lebanon to come up with what was called 'national unity government.'

No one denies that Pierre Gemayel and Camille Chamoun are Lebanese nationals, which is the reason they called the government 'national unity.' But none of us forgets that their parties are a manifestation of real hateful sectarianism and are known for their crimes and conspiracies against Lebanon and its people.

The presence of those men in the new government does in no way give it a nationalist form. The conditions put forth by Nabih Berri are right and should be implemented if the new government wants to be known as nationalist.

Even though we give importance to the presence of Rashid Karameh in the cabinet as prime minister, who is a nationalist with good relations with Syria which is now an advanced front in the face of imperialist threats and conspiracies by Arab reactionaries, this does not mean that the representatives of the National Salvation Front and Amal movement, as well as the other progressive parties, should be ignored. Actually, in the absence of Jumblatt and Berri, the new cabinet lacks the minimum for nationalist work.

AL MITHAQ
May 5

Arab Apathy Must End

During his visit to the US last month, Israel's director of the foreign ministry, David Kimche, received promises from Washington that it will oppose any Lebanese requests for an Israeli pullout from south Lebanon in advance of arrangements for security on Israel's northern borders. The US affirmed that it will not yield to any pressure from the Arab countries on this matter.

Washington's opposition to anything to do with Israel's feelings is not something worth commenting on. It is an American habit to fully back Israel's expansionist policies and the US has used its veto power to defend Israel in international circles, disregarding the feelings of those who tied themselves to the US.

However, the new thing in this is Washington's promise not to yield to what it termed 'Arab pressure.' Washington's indication of Arab pressure is an attempt to mock and belittle the Arab world, which it said it will not yield to. If these countries really wanted to use their potential and resources, they can twist America's arms, and even neck. Therefore, we hope this Arab apathy will not continue so that the Arab pressure will turn into a real force. Then America's cries will be out of real pain — not mockery, like they are now.

AL FAJR
May 7

WEEKLY REVIEW

May 1, 1984

ISRAELI ATTEMPTS TO SHUT HOSPICE CONTINUE

JERUSALEM — The director of the Hospice Hospital in Jerusalem, Dr.Ahmad Muhtadi, told a visiting delegation from the Israeli health ministry, that the Israeli government is mounting pressure on him to close five wards in the women's section of the hospital. Muhtadi said he was threatened by the person in charge of employees affairs that he will be dismissed of his duties if he does not comply with this order.

May 2, 1984

COST OF BASIC FOOD STUFFS UP

HAIFA — *Al Ittihad* reported an overnight increase in the price of basic food stuffs. The papers said the cost of basic foods increased by nine percent as of midnight last night. This increase will include bread, dairy products, oil and meat.

ISRAELI HIT IN QALQILYA GRENADE ATTACK

QALQILYA — An Israeli was wounded when a hand grenade was thrown at his car at the entrance of Qalqilya, Israel Radio said. Curfew was imposed on the city for one hour after the attack, which left the Israeli with medium wounds, according to the radio.

OCCUPATION CENSUS?

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military asked heads of the Dhahriya village council to hand it names of all the village men between the age of 20 and 30. This measure comes when the military is trying to appoint a village council to coordinate activities in the village with the military occupation office in Hebron.

Residents of the village complained that these two measures were intended to control life in the village of 16,000 inhabitants.

VILLAGE LEAGUE ATTACK

JERUSALEM — Residents of Bethlehem filed complaints with the police regarding harassement by Village League members. The complaints said League members throw stones at houses in *al-Maslakh* area in the city, breaking windows and doors.

TOWN ARREST RENEWED

JERUSALEM — A town arrest order imposed on Mohammed Manasreh, from Bethlehem, was renewed for the third consecutive time. The order is good for six months.

COLLEGE STUDENTS STRIKE

RAMALLAH — Students at the Women Teachers College in Ramallah held a sit-in at the education office in Ramallah to protest attempts to enforce the comprehensive exams which Jordan and the 'civil administration' have declared compulsory for all college graduates. The students met with the head of the office who promised to take their protest to the officials in charge.

May 3, 1984

CRIME IN RAMALLAH INCREASES

RAMALLAH — Three armed men wearing Israeli army uniforms broke into the house of Mohammed Ibrahim Rabi, from the village of Sarda, near Ramallah, and ordered him at gun point to hand them all the money and jewellery he had in the house. The three robbers collected JD30,000 and fled in Rabe's car.

Similar robberies occurred in the Ramallah area recently in which thousands of Jordanian dinars were stolen.

SOLDIERS DISABLED

TEL AVIV — Almost 2000 Israeli soldiers were disabled in the Lebanon war, it was announced in Tel Aviv. President of the Israeli Disabled Soldiers Association, said almost 3500 Israeli soldiers were wounded in the fighting in Lebanon.

WB TOMATOES ALLOWED IN GALILEE

GALILEE — For the first time in 17 years, West Bank tomatoes can be marketed legally in the Galilee and Triangle after a sharp decrease in tomato production in Israel. There is still, however, restriction on the sale and growth of potatoes and carrots by Arab farmers without a prior permit from the military government.

ELECTRONIC FENCE IN

An surveillance electronic fence has been placed on the main road leading to Gaza in light of the recent bus operation. The Israeli television said the fence which used to be there many years ago will be re-erected.

May 4, 1984

NO UNRWA AID IN LEBANON

SIDON — UNRWA's director in Sidon, Mahmoud Faris, said his office ended all medical and food aid to Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon from May 1 due to financial problems. UNRWA headquarters in Beirut said its services will not be cut completely but will be drastically reduced.

Ramallah street adjoining the *Manarah* Square where two bombs were discovered and safely detonated May 8/AO photo

LABOUR FEDERATION BACKS TEACHERS

JERUSALEM — The Federation of Labour Unions in the West Bank agreed in its meeting to recognise the General Committee of Government School Teachers and to support it in its fight to get official recognition and to improve teachers' conditions. Teachers have been denied the right to form a union by the West Bank.

The federation also decided to meet with the Association of Arab Hotels in Jerusalem and ask that hotel employees get pay increases.

NEW PLO REP. IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW — Secretary of Fatah Revolutionary Council Sakhr Habash (Abu Nizar) arrived in Moscow to begin his official duty as the PLO representative to the Soviet Union. The PLO's office in Moscow was run by Rami Sha'er, who took it over following the death of his father, Mohammed Sha'er, last year.

May 6, 1984

WOMEN TEACHERS COLLEGE CLOSED

RAMALLAH — The administration of the Women Teachers College in Ramallah decided to shut down the college after the demonstration on Saturday in front of the offices of the Examination Committee in Nablus. The protesters had been asking that applications regarding the comprehensive exams be withdrawn.

The military intervened with the protesters and arrested many of them. Sixty students from Kalandia and the Teachers College were released from detention yesterday on IS20,000 bail each. Students from several West Bank two-year colleges had participated in the sit-in.

POTATO GROWERS PROTEST

TULKARM — Potato growers in the Tulkarm area expressed worry over a decision by Jordan not to allow them to export this year's produce to Amman before May 20. The potato farmers said this decision will hurt them particularly since many have already received export permits and picked their potatoes.

May 7, 1984

TIME BOMB DEFUSED

BETHLEHEM — A time bomb was discovered near Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem but defused before it exploded. The main Hebron-Jerusalem road which passes in front of the tombs, was shut for two hours during the operation.

KHADOURI STUDENTS SUSPEND CLASSES

TULKARM — Students at the Khadouri Agricultural Institute in Tulkarm suspended classes until Saturday to protest the comprehensive exams.

ISRAEL REFUSES TO GET OUT OF MOSQUE

Israel television said Israeli police refused a request by Muslim leaders in Jerusalem to remove all border guards from al-Aqsa Mosque. It claimed the presence of the guards is necessary to maintain order in that area. It also said the police will watch the behaviour of these guards and make sure they respect the sanctity of the place.

MOLOTOV ATTACK IN THE TRIANGLE

THE TRIANGLE — A Molotov bomb was thrown Monday night at a police station in Baqa al-Gharbiyya, Israel Radio said. Four residents of the village were arrested.

May 8, 1984

ARAB FAMILIES LOSE PROPERTY

JERUSALEM — Three Arab families living near a Jewish settlement in the Jerusalem area received orders from Israeli authorities to evacuate their land and property. The houses were built in 1960, but they are supposedly subject to a law that allows the government to take over any property on the pretext of 'public interest.'

Palestinian sources said taking the property is intended to link the Israeli neighbourhoods to the areas occupied after 1967.

BOMBS DISCOVERED IN RAMALLAH

RAMALLAH — Two bombs were discovered in the Manara square Ramallah area yesterday but safely detonated by Israeli explosive experts.

An Arab-owned bus on the Ramallah-Jerusalem road was searched by police after they received a call that there was a bomb on the bus. Nothing was found

HOUSES TO BE DEMOLISHED FOR ROAD

'ARA, TRIANGLE — Several home owners in Ara, the Triangle, received notices from the Israeli government that their homes and property will be taken over to expand a village road to 200 metres wide.

STUDENTS INSIST ON REJECTING EXAMS

BIR ZEIT — Students from several West Bank colleges met at Bir Zeit University to discuss the comprehensive exams. The students unanimously expressed their rejection of the exams. Bir Zeit students, not affected by the exams, expressed support for their colleagues.

CLASSES RESUME AT RAMALLAH COLLEGE

RAMALLAH — Student representatives at Ramallah's Modern Community College issued a statement urging all students to start classes next Saturday after an agreement was reached between the students and the administration. The administration has agreed to student demands on tuition payment. The demands included waiving fees in special cases and to permit payment in installments.

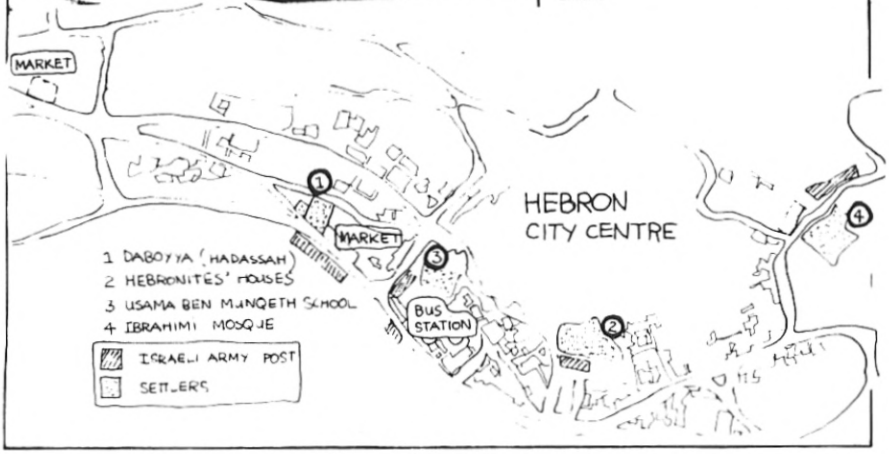
BITON MEETS PLO OFFICIAL

TEL AVIV — MK Charlie Biton, of the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, said he met PLO representatives during his recent visit to Morocco and exchanged views on preparation of a conference for Moroccan Jews to be held in Rabat, May 17. Biton said a delegation from the PLO has taken part in the preparations for this conference which will be attended by officials of the Moroccan government and Jewish organisations.

Kiryat Arba-based settlers released, last week, a major plan for restructuring the centre of Hebron as a settlement. **Zvi Bar'el**, writing in *HaAretz*, examined the scheme and its implications.

Jewish Fantasy in Hebron

Residential apartheid along with partnership in profits



Left: Prefabs for settlers erected on the site of the seized bus station, September 1983/JN photo
Below: Settler presence in the heart of Hebron. "It is our intention to create a continuity between these three sites that are a few hundred metres distant from one another and in the long-term there is a link planned between these three sites and Kiryat Arba, located 1.5 kilometres from the town centre."

If I hadn't seen it on paper, typed by a computer, divided into articles and subarticles, I would have said, 'It's not possible that such a plan exists." The nerve and arrogance needed to think out such a plan shocks one observing it. The trouble is in everything related to the visions, or should we say fantasies, of Rabbi Levinger and his gang who constitute the Committee for the Development of Hebron's Jewish Quarter, even crazy fantasies are achievable reality. Therefore, I have no doubt in my heart that the "master plan for development of Hebron's Jewish quarter" will soon become reality and we shall stand open mouthed before the Eighth Wonder in Hebron's town centre while a national hymn of settlers is sounding.

The programme speaks of settling a Jewish community of 500 families (about 3000 people) in Hebron's town centre. The families will reside in three central sites: Hassed Avraham (Hadassah [Dabboyya] building), Hizkiyahu site (Romano House [Usama Ibn Munqeth School] and the Arab Bus Station), and the Forefather Avraham Synagogue (the Hebron vegetable market). "It is our intention to create a continuity between these three sites that are a few hundred metres distant from one another," the plan states, "and in the long-term there is a link planned between these three sites and Kiryat Arba located 1.5 kilometres from the town centre."

The plan doesn't explain how the link will be created or if it means total evacuation of Hebron's town centre of its inhabitants and merchants. This question is meant apparently as "a hint to the wise."

Integration and Segregation

The first problem arises in the introduction: "Integration of Jewish residents with the local population involves severe conflicts, especially in relation to a Jewish population with deep Jewish consciousness that lives in the heart of Hebron's commercial centre. Therefore, the planning should be directed to the separate development of Jewish quarters and neighbourhoods to include educational and religious services and at the same time integration into the Hebron commercial centre." Indeed, this is an interesting solution to the problem, meaning residential *apartheid* along with partnership in profits.

As a rule, the plan emphasises the commercial side of the Jewish life in the town, stating that there is a strong demand among Hebron Jews to building underground passages with additional shops over and above those that will be built on the first floor of the residential buildings on the three sites. In all three sites public centres are planned to include shops, walkways, offices and underground car parks.

According to the plans there will be a separate transport network independent of Arab transportation. Egged buses and urban minibuses will be used. Another interesting remark indicates that the road from Kiryat Arba to the settlement in Hebron and the road to the Jewish cemetery will be widened.

This means the destruction of dozens of houses and the eviction of their residents. About this there is no word in the masterplan.

This matter necessarily raises the question of the ownership of land. Here the architects of the plan state, "Indeed the territories intended for the development of the quarter are managed by the Custodian of Absentee Property." However, the Society for Hebron's Jewish Quarter Development has already addressed a request to the Custodian for privileges relating to this property. In the 'civil administration' they don't know of the request or any intention to affirm it.

As a general rule, the attitude to these complicated legal problems — that have not been solved yet — is, by the way, as a reader of the plan is given the impression, that everything is settled and agreed upon and there are no more serious problems.

On the question of infrastructure, the plan promises the installation of an independent water and sewage system, the strengthening of the electricity system, the construction of a gas supply network and special budgets for telephones, shelters, and a multi-purpose neighbourhood shelter. It is not mentioned whether these shelters are also intended to serve the Arab population.

Following the general description of the three sites, there is a precise detailing of public services that will be built in each quarter, the number of projected residential units, shops, offices, kindergartens, mother and baby care centres and even a Hebron historical museum.

In an almost sarcastic manner a public park is planned for the convenience of the Jewish and Arab public, next to the Hebron Jewish cemetery. This is the only part of the plan that speaks of a common site for Jews and Arabs.

The implementation of the plan is divided into three stages. In the first stage 70 families will be settled and there will be three *yeshivot* for 150 scholars in restored buildings at the three sites. In the second stage — when more land will be released for construction, including the Arab bus station and the vegetable market — 130 more families will be added and 100 *yeshivah* scholars. In the third stage, 300 additional families will come to bring the number up to 500 families.

The Israeli housing ministry will finance stages one and two and the third stage — 'Build Your (Own) Home' — will be underwritten by private investors and flat purchasers. According to the plan, about one-third of the flats will have five rooms, another third four rooms and the rest two to three rooms.

The grandiose plan places two central difficulties before architects: where to get settlers from and how to finance it. In order to solve these difficulties, the plan was translated into English for an up-coming journey to the US by society representatives to convince (potential) immigrants and investors to contribute their share. But nothing in the plan, apart from the restoration of the [Dabboyya] building has been agreed.

In the housing ministry they "almost fell off their chairs" when they heard about the plan and the legal and property ownership difficulties have not yet been solved.

All this doesn't stop the initiators of the plan presenting it as if everything is clear and simple, as if everything would be confirmed and budgeted for and as if the housing ministry were waiting with a bouquet to invest in the Hebron Jewish Quarter.

In order to "make round the corners," as mentioned, there is nothing about Jewish-Arab relations in the town and about the fact that the implementation of the plan means the almost total evacuation of the Arab commercial centre and its transformation into a Jewish commercial centre, the interruption and paralysing of Arab commercial life for a long period of time to construct underground passages and the various car parks.

About all these, the composers of the plan remark that the Jewish quarter will depend on Hebron municipal services. Apparently, they presuppose, the Hebron municipality will remain [Israeli] forever.

Another 'thorny' problem remains: the government's confirmation of stages B and C of the plan (stage A, as mentioned, has been already confirmed and is in its final stages of implementation.) The timing of the plan's publication testifies to the advance thought of its planners because who in the Israeli government would dare reject it today? Almost every minister in the present government has a hand in the confirmation of this or that part of the 'sons' return' to Hebron. Could David Levi say "no" to someone using his office's name in vain? Or maybe the defence minister will deny promises already given? Furthermore, government confirmation of the plan now might leave the Labour Alignment (if it wins the next election) with a heavy inheritence that might kill any possibility for a political solution in the region. (Translation: Ha Aretz, April 27, 1984)